



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
Brigham City, UT
Waterbird/Raptor Survey
July 29-30, 2013

A waterbird/raptor survey was conducted on July 29-30, 2013 by Refuge Biologist Howard Browers with 41 species recorded. Water conditions are still good in the middle part of the refuge (Units 3 and 4) where we have targeted nearly all available Bear River water. Much of the southern, western and eastern portions of the refuge are dry or nearly dry.

Shorebird migration has begun as numbers of staging American avocet, black-necked stilt and marbled godwit have been increasing. A highlight of the survey includes black tern. Though a local breeder, the species is somewhat uncommon on the refuge, mostly occurring in late summer through early fall. Another highlight was the sighting of a ruddy turnstone which is a rare migrant as it travels between breeding areas in the Arctic and wintering areas on the coasts of the US, Mexico, and Central and South America. The number of snowy egrets sighted is a record for July for this survey.

Canada goose	3,318	Black-necked stilt	6,332
Mallard	2,555	American avocet	7,371
Northern pintail	427	Spotted sandpiper	12
Cinnamon teal	2,265	Greater yellowlegs	17
Gadwall	2,652	Lesser yellowlegs	2
American wigeon	8	Long-billed curlew	3
Redhead	410	Marbled godwit	925
Ruddy duck	278	Ruddy turnstone	1
Unknown ducks	15	Long-billed dowitcher	55
Pied-billed grebe	17	Wilson's phalarope	1,156
Eared grebe	4	Franklin's gull	7,211
Western grebe	227	Ring-billed gull	1,272
Clark's grebe	104	California gull	3,304
American white pelican	4,308	Caspian tern	48
Double-crested cormorant	629	Forster's tern	150
Great blue heron	78	Black tern	29
Great egret	2	American coot	3,087
Snowy egret	939	Sandhill crane	2
Black-crowned night heron	36	Turkey vulture	1
White-faced ibis	6,779	Northern harrier	1
Killdeer	16	Swainson's hawk	1

Howard Browers
Wildlife Biologist
Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
2155 West Forest St.
Brigham City, UT 84302
Phone: 435/734-6433